

ARMED FORCES DAY

Mr. MARTINEZ. Madam President, over the course of this Nation's history, generations of Americans have made tremendous sacrifices to protect the freedoms we hold dear. Every May, we honor these courageous Americans on Armed Forces Day.

Just a few years after the close of World War II, President Harry S. Truman led the effort for this holiday. It was at the end of August, 1949, that Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of Armed Forces Day to replace separate days of celebration for the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

This is a day for all of us as Americans to come together to recognize our brave military men and women for their service, sacrifice, and dedication to our Nation. On this Armed Forces Day, we are reminded of the important contributions our service men and women are currently making overseas to help others come to know the freedom we enjoy.

Let us not only remember all of the service men and women who have served our country so bravely, let us appreciate those serving at home and their families who sacrifice so much. On this day we thank members of our military for their selfless dedication to working everyday to protect our liberty and freedom.

As the home to more than 20 military installations and nearly 2 million veterans, this past Saturday was a proud day for many Floridians. I salute all those who have given up so much for our Nation, and express my tremendous gratitude for their service.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT ISAAC PALOMAREZ

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of Army Sergeant Isaac Palomarez of Loveland, CO. Sergeant Palomarez was killed last Friday in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan. He and his unit were working to root out Taliban cells and insurgent networks when his patrol ran across a roadside bomb and was then attacked with grenades and small arms. Isaac Palomarez was 26 years old.

Those who knew Sergeant Palomarez describe him as a gifted student, a spirited competitor and successful athlete, and a soldier committed to honoring his country and fulfilling his duty.

He was an honor student at Loveland High School who excelled in math, was an avid reader of military history, and filled his free time with sports. He helped Loveland High School's football team win a State championship in 2000, using his talent, work ethic, and heart to outcompete opponents who outweighed him by 50 or a hundred pounds.

After graduating from high school in 2001, Isaac took classes at Colorado State University, but was uncertain about which path to choose. In 2004, sensing a responsibility to serve his

country and his community, he enlisted in the Army, following in the footsteps of his father. He was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, out of Fort Campbell, KY.

Sergeant Palomarez's first deployment was to Iraq, in 2005. After a year, he returned safely, in answer to the prayers of his family and friends.

Earlier this year he deployed again, this time to Afghanistan. Kapisa Province, in northwest Afghanistan, remains an outpost for Taliban and insurgent forces, and is a strategic link between the border regions and Afghanistan's capital, Kabul. Sergeant Palomarez was working with his unit and coalition forces to deny extremists a foothold in this critical area. It was a dangerous mission in an unforgiving place.

Sergeant Palomarez served in the finest tradition of America's soldiers. He was professional, compassionate, and committed to his country, community, and family. Shortly before he was killed, he borrowed a cell phone from another soldier, called his mother, and wished her a happy Mother's Day in advance. It was the last time he spoke with his family—news of Isaac's death reached his family before Mother's Day arrived.

The sense of duty and purpose that inspired Sergeant Palomarez's service is fundamental to our Nation's liberty and our democracy. The strength of our union stems from the willingness of American citizens to work and fight for the rights and freedoms of others, no matter the danger or the cost.

This was the message that William Allen White, the famous newspaper editor, delivered to Northwestern University graduates in 1936 as the specter of fascism loomed over Europe and Asia. "Liberty, if it shall cement man into political unity," said White, "must be something more than a man's conception of his rights, much more than his desire to fight for his own rights. True liberty is founded upon a lively sense of the rights of others and a fighting conviction that the rights of others must be maintained. Only when a people have this love of liberty, this militant belief in the sacredness of another man's self-respect, do races and nations possess the catalyzer in their political and social organism which produces the chemical miracle of crystallized national unity and strength. We Americans have had it for three hundred years on this continent. It was in the blood of our fathers. It was the basis of our faith in humanity when we wrote our constitution."

In Isaac Palomarez's honorable service we find the same love of liberty that has bound our union, generation after generation. In his courage and commitment to helping others, we are inspired to a greater faith in humanity. And in his sacrifice, we are humbled and indebted.

To Sergeant Palomarez's parents, Elma and Candido, to his three older

brothers, and to all his friends and family, I know no words that can assuage the pain you feel. I hope that in time your grief will give way to the pride you must feel for your son, to the joy that he stirred among those who knew him, and to the knowledge that his country will always honor his legacy. He will never be forgotten.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING CHARLES RUCH

• Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I wish to recognize the contributions of Dr. Charles Ruch to my home State of South Dakota.

I have known Dr. Ruch since he became president of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 2003. During his tenure, technology, innovation, and collaboration were continually the focus, and the School of Mines and the students there are the beneficiaries of Dr. Ruch's commitment to this vision. Dr. Ruch was instrumental in bringing the School of Mines and the community together to increase opportunities for research, scholarship, and economic development in Rapid City and across the State of South Dakota.

Dr. Ruch's emphasis on collaboration led to the Black Hills Development Center being located on the campus and the campus coming together to achieve the goals that were established in the Strategic Agenda of the School of Mines. I was consistently impressed by his love of the school, as well as his desire to improve programs and research opportunities for students and professors. Dr. Ruch is leaving the School of Mines just as funding commitments have been made to support the new Chemical and Biological Engineering building. The new building was one of the School of Mines' goals when Dr. Ruch arrived in 2003, and it is only fitting that the project is being realized as Dr. Ruch retires. As South Dakota established the Sanford Laboratory and we work with the National Science Foundation to establish a Deep Underground Science Laboratory, Dr. Ruch leaves the South Dakota School of Mines well-equipped to partner in these research projects.

Dr. Ruch has been an exceptional partner in improving collegiate opportunities in my home State and constantly sought new innovative programs, research grants, and post-graduate opportunities for students at the School of Mines. I would like to thank Dr. Ruch for his excellent service to students, the school, and the State of South Dakota. We all congratulate him on a very successful 5 years. His vision and enthusiasm for the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology will be sorely missed.●

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH L. TYSON

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to Kenneth

L. Tyson for his dedication to the health care profession. Ken is a true leader, and his commitment to Newark Beth Israel Medical Center is more than worthy of recognition.

Ken began his career at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center in March 1965 as a medical technologist in the laboratory. He worked his way up the ranks and in 1990 was promoted to his current position, senior vice president of operations. Under his direction, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center has enjoyed a consistently prestigious record of contributions to the medical field. It is one of the largest hospitals in New Jersey and provides unique and highly specialized services including heart transplants, kidney transplants, lung transplants, neonatal and pediatric critical care. For over 43 years, Ken has enjoyed a distinguished reputation among his peers within the New Jersey hospital industry, the Saint Barnabas Health Care System and the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center family.

Ken Tyson is a 1965 graduate of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, with a bachelor of science in medical technology. He then earned a master's degree in business administration from the Rutgers Graduate School of Business in 1977. Ken also served his alma mater as an adjunct instructor in the medical technology program for 9 years and later taught clinical laboratory sciences at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey for over 19 years. He is currently affiliated with the American College of Health Care Executives and the American Society of Clinical Pathology.

Ken has dedicated his long and illustrious career to improving health care services for the residents of New Jersey and beyond. On behalf of my home State, I am honored to express my gratitude and congratulations to Kenneth L. Tyson and extend my best wishes for a long and happy retirement with his wife Ophelia and his two children and four grandchildren.●

BLACKSTONE VALLEY TOURISM COUNCIL

● Mr. REED. Madam President, last week was National Tourism Week, established by Congress in 1983 and celebrated annually since May 1984. To mark this 25th celebration, I would like to recognize the accomplishments of the Blackstone Valley, which recently won international recognition for its sustainable tourism program.

Last month, the World Travel and Tourism Council recognized only one destination in America, the Blackstone Valley of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, with the Destination Award for 2008. This honor was bestowed upon the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council to recognize the organization's trailblazing destination stewardship approach to tourism development, including its work to preserve the area's natural, cultural, and historical heritage.

At the heart of the valley is the Blackstone River, which runs from

Worcester, MA, to Providence, RI. The river's waters once powered the Slater Mill in Pawtucket, which was America's first successful textile mill and the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution in this country. While this transition from farm to factory brought many years of prosperity, by the 1970s, the valley's economy had declined as industry moved on from the area, leaving behind a tarnished facade and environmental damage.

Today, thanks to the coordinated efforts of the Blackstone Corridor Commission, the National Park Service, the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, businesses, environmental organizations, 24 municipalities, and the States of Rhode Island and Massachusetts, the valley has made a remarkable resurgence as a living landscape of natural and historic treasures.

The Blackstone Valley Tourism Council has shown that eco-friendly tourism can revitalize a weakened economy, restore natural surroundings, and revive residents' pride in their communities. Through innovative programs like the Sustainable Tourism Development and Planning Laboratory, the tourism council has created a model for destinations around the country to follow. It is a notable achievement for any river to be at the center of a revolution; but it is a rare feat for the Blackstone River to have spawned two.

I congratulate the people of the Blackstone Valley and the Tourism Council for spearheading an economic redevelopment strategy that has made great strides in improving the quality of life in the area.●

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13047 OF MAY 20, 1997, WITH RESPECT TO BURMA, AS RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON MAY 16, 2008—PM 49

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the Burma emergency is to continue beyond May 20, 2008.

The crisis between the United States and Burma arising from the actions

and policies of the Government of Burma, including its engaging in large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on May 20, 1997, and its expansion on October 18, 2007, and April 30, 2008, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma and maintain in force the sanctions against Burma to respond to this threat. This action does not inhibit any efforts on the part of the United States to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Burma in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 16, 2008.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 331. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's Health Week, and for other purposes.

At 5:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 406. An act to award a congressional gold medal in recognition of Alice Paul's role in the women's suffrage movement and in advancing equal rights for women.

H.R. 2894. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the writing of the "Star Spangled Banner" and the War of 1812, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5614. An act to authorize the production in palladium of Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle coins as ultra-high relief numismatic coins and bullion investment coins in order to provide affordable opportunities for investments in precious metals, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5834. An act to amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to promote respect for the fundamental human rights of the people of North Korea, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5872. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5916. An act to reform the administration of the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes.

At 5:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution:

H. Con. Res. 354. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 100th birthday of Lyndon Baines